

Message Text

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13

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-04 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-04 INR-05

LAB-01 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01 AID-05 DODE-00 PA-01

USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 DRC-01 /043 W

----- 113869

R 130616Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2140

INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY SANAA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

UNCLAS ABU DHABI 1403

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, XD, XF

SUBJ: UAE SEEKS ARAB LABOR

1. ACCORDING TO LOCAL NEWSPAPER, AL-ITTIHAD, UAE CABINET HAS APPROVED NEW PROCEDURES TO IMPORT ARAB LABOR FROM ABROAD. UNDER THIS PROGRAM, WORKED OUT BY THE UAE MINISTRIES OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, INTERIOR, AND LABOR, A LABOR ATTACHE WILL BE ASSIGNED TO UAE EMBASSIES IN ARAB COUNTRIES. ARAB WORKERS INTERESTED IN SEEKING EMPLOYMENT IN THE UAE WILL BE GRANTED A ONE-MONTH VISITOR'S VISA TO ENABLE THEM TO COME TO THE UAE AND FIND EMPLOYMENT. VISA APPLICANTS WILL BE REQUIRED TO SUPPLY CERTIFICATES OF QUALIFICATION, EXPERIENCE AND GOOD CONDUCT. THERE ARE ALSO ARRANGEMENTS FOR RECRUITMENT OF GROUPS OF WORKERS THROUGH THE MINISTRIES OF LABOR OF OTHER ARAB COUNTRIES. ACCORDING TO AL-ITTIHAD REPORT, LABOR MINISTRIES IN EGYPT, SYRIA AND YEMEN HAVE ALREADY AGREED TO ASSIST IN PROVIDING LABORERS TO UAE.

2. COMMENT: IN PUBLICIZING ITS DECISION TO RECRUIT

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UNSKILLED AND SEMI-SKILLED WORKERS FROM OTHER ARAB STATES,

THE UAE MAY BE MAKING A VIRTUE OF NECESSITY. THIS COUNTRY
ALREADY FACES A LABOR SHORTAGE, WHICH WILL BECOME MORE
SERIOUS WITH THE EXECUTION OF LARGE-SCALE DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS.
AT PRESENT MUCH OF THE NEEDED LABOR COMES FROM PAKISTAN AND
IRAN, BUT CONTRACTORS ARE ALREADY EXPERIENCING DIFFICULTY IN
KEEPING IRANIAN WORKERS, MANY OF WHOM ARE BEING ATTRACTED
TO RELATIVELY HIGH WAGES AND FULL EMPLOYMENT IN THEIR OWN
COUNTRY. ONE MAJOR CONTRACTOR REPORTED THAT HE WAS ALREADY
SEEKING OTHER SOURCES BOTH OF UNSKILLED CONSTRUCTION WORKERS,
AND
SEMI-SKILLED DRIVERS, CARPENTERS, ELECTRICIANS, AND PAINTERS. HE
ESTIMATED THMT WITHIN FIVE YEARS THERE WILL BE ALMOST NO IRANIAN
WORKERS IN
THE UAE.
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